

VZCZCXRO3269
OO RUEHCN
DE RUEHKT #2390 2441130
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 011130Z SEP 06
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2996
INFO RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 4719
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY 4955
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA PRIORITY 0091
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 2947
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 4353
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 0161
RUEHCN/AMCONSUL CHENGDU PRIORITY 0304
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 002390

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/01/2016

TAGS: [PREF](#) [NP](#)

SUBJECT: TIBETAN UPDATE, AUGUST 31

REF: A. KATHMANDU 1403

[1](#)B. KATHMANDU 1702

Classified By: Ambassador James F. Moriarty. Reasons 1.4 (b/d).

[1](#)1. (C) According to Douglas DiSalvo, Associate Protection Officer at the Kathmandu Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), there were 105 transiting Tibetan refugees housed in the Tibetan Reception Center (TRC) as of August 31. There were 185 new arrivals and 126 departures during the month of August. Total departures for 2006 had reached nearly 2,000. The overall number of arrivals year-to-date was nearly 1300, nearly the same as last year at this time. DiSalvo stated that everything was currently working smoothly at the TRC. There have been no problems regarding Nepalese exit permits or Indian entry permits. DiSalvo said that, typically, the number of refugees begins to rise at the TRC during September and October, when the colder weather allows for safer passage across frozen passes in the mountains.

[1](#)2. (C) DiSalvo stated that the US-funded expansion project at the TRC had fallen behind schedule. It was now expected to be finished by October 15. He stressed, however, that the new building would already be habitable by October 1. The TRC planned to house women and children only in the new expansion and men in the existing building, avoiding any problems that may arise by having both sexes in the same building.

Comment

[1](#)3. (C) The number of refugees is tracking along the same lines as last year and, barring unforeseen events, refugees should continue to transit safely through Nepal. Post is pleased to see the building expansion moving along, given the extended work stoppage during the people's movement in April.
MORIARTY